

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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2006 Annual Crop Summary

Spring began with dry conditions throughout Virginia. Early summer rains brought some relief improving soil moisture levels. Late summer conditions were hot and dry. The summer ended with significant rainfall from Tropical Storm Ernesto. Continual rains caused some flooding and delayed harvest efforts for several crops. Despite a dry spring, adequate soil moisture levels throughout the summer benefited soybean, cotton, and corn crops.

Corn for grain yields averaged 120 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than the previous year's yield. Production is estimated at 41.4 million bushels, 3 percent below the 2005 production. Acres harvested for grain at 345,000, was 15,000 acres less than last year. Corn silage acres harvested totaled 130,000 acres, with a yield of 17.5 tons per acre.

Soybeans yielded an average 31 bushels per acre, 1 bushel above 2005. A total of 510,000 acres were harvested for beans, unchanged from the previous year. Soybean production is estimated at 15.8 million bushels, 3 percent greater than last year's production.

Virginia's peanut producers harvested an average of 3,100 pounds per acre this season, 100 pounds per acre more than last year. Peanut production is estimated at 49.6 million pounds, down 25 percent from the 2005 production.

Cotton production is estimated at 158,000 bales, down 14 percent from 2005. The cotton yield forecast is 729 pounds per acre, down 226 pounds from 2005's yield. Producers harvested 104,000 acres in 2006 an increase of 12,000 acres from last year.

Flue-cured tobacco yields averaged 2,430 pounds per acre, 20 pounds above 2,410 pounds per acre harvested in 2005. Virginia's production is expected to total 41.3 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year. Burley tobacco yield is estimated at 2,000 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from 2005. Burley production is estimated at 4.6 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year.

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Crop Production

2006 Summary

All U.S. corn for grain production is estimated at 10.5 billion bushels; down 2 percent from the November forecast and 5 percent lower than 2005. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 149.1 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from the November forecast but 1.1 bushels above 2005. The 2006 yield estimate is the second highest on record, behind 2004, while the production estimate is the third largest on record. Area harvested for grain, at 70.6 million acres, is down 6 percent from 2005.

All U.S. soybean production in 2006 totals 3.19 billion bushels, the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. This is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast but 4 percent above the 2005 production. The average yield per acre is estimated at 42.7 bushels, 0.3 bushel below both the November forecast and last year's record high yield. Harvested area is up 5 percent from 2005, to a record high 74.6 million acres.

All U.S. cotton production is estimated at 21.7 million bales, up 2 percent from last month but down 9 percent from last year's record high production. The U.S. yield, at 819 pounds per acre, down 12 pounds per acre from the previous year. Production and yield are both the third largest on record. Harvested area, at 12.7 million acres, is down less than 1 percent from the December forecast and down 8 percent from last year.

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